

~~Speaker Registration/Testimony~~

Bill 52(2017)

Name Cosette Morrison Harms
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 Meeting Date 06-28-2017
 Council/PH Committee Budget
 Agenda Item CB52(2017)
 Your position on the matter Oppose
 Representing Self
 Organization
 Do you wish to speak at the No
 hearing?

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 2017 JUN 30 AM 8:10

I'm sorry not to have been able to attend yesterday's meeting on the proposal to raise the annual minimum property tax for historic residences. As owner, tax payer and steward of our historic Hilltop House at 2 A'alapapa Place, Kailua (Lanikai) I am deeply grateful for the tax break we receive. It has allowed us to restore a very weather beaten home built in 1931 by my grandparents. It also allows us to keep my mother, Peggy Powlison Bredesen, at home at the age of 95 - needing our care and now having Hospice in the wings. She has lived here for 86 years.

Written
 Testimony

In so many ways over so many years we have shared our home with our community. School groups have come to visit - reinforcing the place names of the mountains and off shore islands in our view and to learn the significance of Alala, the sacred stones. Hula halau have practiced here and shared the sunset beauty with a potluck. We have hosted an unlimited number of meetings - including Hawaiian language class, Kailua Historical Society board, Lanikai Association, Ukulele and Hawaiian music events, Outrigger paddler groups, Medical clinic and bookstore gatherings, and TV coverage of OC16's Hometown History and KITV's coverage of Dec. 7, 1941. We have welcomed military gatherings to support the remembrance of December 7, 1941. Our home was occupied by the US Army from 1942-1945 as a lookout and gun control center. In the 1950's and 60's the Jaycees sponsored open houses here to support needs in the community which included: Building Castle Hospital, rebuilding Kailua Library after a fire, Kailua High School's madrigal singers' tour, and the Falls of Clyde sailing vessel's coming to Honolulu.

Our family is committed to the legacy of sharing our home to benefit our community and the education of our youth. I am so grateful for your tax reduction that allows me to pay all our bills on my fixed social security and teacher retirement. Please don't raise our property taxes.

Mahalo

MISC. COM. 3397

6/30/2017

Cosette Morrison Harms

Testimony
Attachment
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and 1
Agreement